

REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 27, 2007. Claim 19 has been amended. Support for amended claim 19 can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, for example at page 3, line 28 through page 4, line 5. Claims 20-21 have been canceled. Claims 19 and 23-30 will remain pending upon entry of the instant amendment.

No new matter has been added. Amendments and/or cancellation of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's objections and/or rejections. Amendments and/or cancellations of the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution of the above-identified application. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the same or similar claims in the present or another patent application. The amendments and/or cancellations made are not related to any issues of patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Ferrara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,557,006) in view of Lopes (U.S. Pat. No. 6,559,110)

The Office Action rejected claims 19-21, 23-27, and 30 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ferrara in further view of Lopes. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ferrara discloses a toilet bar composition that includes acids. The Office Action acknowledges that Ferrara does not disclose the specific combination of acids in the invention as claimed.

Applicants have amended claim 19 to call out the amount of water present in the acidic cleaning block. Applicants respectfully submit that Ferrara does not teach or suggest this feature of the claimed invention. Although Ferrara does disclose various concentrations of water present

in the detergent bar compositions, i.e., the alkaline detergent soap compositions, it does not disclose the amount of water present in the acidic bath oil soap composition. Further, even the amount of water disclosed by Ferrara for the alkaline detergent compositions does not read on the presently claimed invention. Lopes et al. does not remedy the shortcomings of Ferrara.

The invention as claimed is directed to a selection of acids that can be melted, poured, packaged, and solidified in a uniform manner. The amount of water present in the claimed invention ensures that the product is still flowable, and can be produced at low temperatures. Applicants submit that the claimed range of water in the acidic block necessary to impart these qualities on the cleaning block would not have been obvious to one of skill in the art based on the teachings of Ferrara alone or in combination with Lopes. Nor are Applicants aware of any teaching in the art generally that would suggest the claimed ranges. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

*Ferrara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,557,006) in view of Lopes (U.S. Pat. No. 6,559,110)
and further in view of Evans (U.S. Pat. No. 4,992,193)*

The Office Action rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ferrara in view of Lopes and further in view of Evans. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Applicants submit that Ferrara et al. alone or in combination with Lopes does not teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Evans does not remedy the shortcomings of either reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Ferrara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,557,006) in view of Tauchi et al. (JP62045516)

The Office Action rejected claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ferrara in view of Tauchi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As discussed above, Ferrara fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Tauchi et al. fails to remedy the shortcomings of Ferrara. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is kindly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' primary attorney-of-record, Anneliese S. Mayer, at (651) 795-5661, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.



Respectfully submitted,

ECOLAB INC.
Law Department
Mail Stop ESC-F7
655 Lone Oak Drive
Eagan, Minnesota 55121
Phone Number: (651) 795-5661
Fax Number: (651) 204-7507

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By: /Anneliese S. Mayer/
Name: Anneliese S. Mayer
Reg. No. 54,434